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ROME'S TERRORIST TACTICS DEMONSTRATE NECESSITY FOR PRESS DEFENSE LEAGUE

THERE have come to the Free Press Defense League a number of letters suggesting that while its cause is just, there is no real need of its services.

"Doubtless," runs the usual argument, "The Catholic hierarchy would be glad to do in America what it has done in every country in which it has obtained the upper hand, but the Catholics are so much in the minority that there is nothing to be feared from the machinations of the Romish politicians. America is free!"

But, is America free?

Before you answer that question, read this letter. It is more than likely that there will be a mist in your eyes when you have finished it. It is quite possible that you will remember with a curdling of your blood that Rome makes war upon women too. Is America free? Let this letter, mailed from one of the large cities of Pennsylvania, answer:

"I am sorry that for several reasons I will have to withhold my real name. I am the daughter of an old A. P. A. worker, who was, I believe, one of the founders of that movement. Has been dead for several years but if alive now would be one of the strongest on your Firing Line. In remembrance of him, I am sending you \$50, hoping it will assist you in your good work."

Is America free, when a woman, desirous of helping to preserve to herself and her country the privilege of a free press, free schools and freedom of religious opinion, dares not give her own name?

We who are on the Firing Line know what all this means. We know the danger; we know the venom of Rome, how it is spewed alike upon men, women, children—upon any and all who dare defy its pretensions to universal civil power as well as spiritual dominion.

But lest there be those in America who may not understand, who find it all but impossible to comprehend the monstrous policies of oppression which Rome has pursued, let the Free Press Defense League submit one other letter, this time from Jersey City, N. J. It is brief, but it tells the story:

"I take pleasure in sending herewith a contribution of \$3. I will send more. I ask that my name and address be withheld from public print."

This letter and hundreds like it, many of them from Jersey City—created no surprise at the office of the Free Press Defense League. The non-Romans of Jersey City also know what Rome can do when the political power of her hierarchy is threatened. And the pleas of the people of Jersey City for the protection of their names that they may not fall victims to a Rome inspired mob, is more eloquent than volumes of preachments upon human rights.

Is America free?

Can we prate of freedom when men who live in one of America's greatest cities—a city with courts and police and all the safeguards which nation, state and municipality can throw about their citizens—must plead for protection of anonymity when they wish to contribute a few dollars for the preservation of one of their dearly bought rights?

Is America free?

Here is another letter:

"You see I am enclosing \$1.00 in currency without registering it. Our postmaster and assistant postmaster are of that class who oppose the patriotic undertaking that you have in hand. My position in the community is such that I dare not take sides publicly in this matter, so I send cash."

And this man goes on to tell an astonishing but true story of how he has been spied upon by those controlled by the hierarchy.

Here is another letter that speaks eloquently of the conditions that prevail in "the land of the brave and the home of the free":

"I have been superintendent of Sunday schools for forty years. I am not rich in this world's goods, but rich in spirit for the welfare of my country; for the preservation of American liberties, free schools, the free press, and the right to worship according to the dictates of one's own conscience. I am sending you a check for \$2. Later I shall send more. I have been boycotted much in the past eighteen months because of my out and out opposition to Romanism. But it is necessary that we take our stand against this organization, cost what it may."

And what have you to say, patriots, to this:

"Enclosed you will find a money order for \$3, together with my application for membership in the Free Press Defense League. I am

sending the money in behalf of a lady employed by the government who contributes liberally to the patriotic cause but who does not wish her name mentioned for fear of dismissal through Roman Catholic influence."

That letter came from Washington.

Is America free, when one who earns her living in the employment of the government of her country, dare not openly give of her time and services to protect that government from the machinations of a foreign potentate?

While such letters as this can be and are written, is America free?

Are worse things done in darkest Russia?

We who have gone into the trenches for this fight to preserve the freedom of the press know what manner of foe we face. And these things are here set forth that others may know.

The Free Press Defense League needs 1,000,000 soldiers of the common good who, standing shoulder to shoulder with united force against the foe, shall make sure that now and forever there shall be an end to the menace of Rome.

What is this shadow that overhangs the land? What is this threat that stills the lips of patriots? What is this terror that makes defenders of the free press fear to have that press publish their names?

Ask men who have felt the force of the boycott!

Call from the grave the ghost of William Black, who died at Marshall, Texas, but the other day, died at the hands of assassins wearing the badge of "eternal Rome!"

If you require still further evidence, ask Crowley what the hand of Rome did to him in non-Catholic Iowa!

Or ask Slattery and King what "Rome, the omnipotent," through Romish mobs can do and has done in New Jersey!

It is to perpetuate her power in politics, her power to exploit the masses of her people, her power to punish those who dare oppose her that Rome is now rallying her forces. It is for this that mass meetings are being held. It is for this that resolutions are being adopted. It is for this that the tremendous pressure of 18,000,000 of people influenced by the Roman hierarchy is being used to intimidate government officials. It is for this that Rome makes her last and strongest stand against American Liberty.

And it is against this that the Free Press Defense League has set its face. Not only is it determined to end, now and for all time, the terrorizing of the public press by the agents of Rome, but it has also undertaken through its various functions to accomplish these further things:

To regain for the American people the right of free, full and public religious discussion. To this end the Free Press Defense League proposes to level the weight of 1,000,000 freemen against the practice now followed with impunity by Rome of raising mobs to commit all manner of outrages against speakers who dare to tell the truth about the Romish hierarchy.

To make possible the safe dissemination of truth through the press, the platform or any other means whatsoever. For this purpose, the League is determined to make it forever impossible for Romish assassins to murder the champions of religious liberty whose lives are daily endangered by their devotion to the common good.

To make it impossible for Rome to control our public schools or to reach out her sinister hand to abridge the rights of other churches. And with this mission in mind, the League will establish its legislative department, in order that neither in the nation nor in any state shall the hand of Jesuit write into law or constitution that which shall rob a citizen of his rights.

It was with this stupendous task in view that J. I. Sheppard of Ft. Scott, volunteered his services as organizer of the Free Press Defense League. It was in the full knowledge that every citizen should do his whole duty that Mr. Sheppard first gave up a legal fee that would have amounted to \$25,000, and then projected this na-

tion-wide organization for the protection of the fearless press and our free institutions. And it is with this same task in view that thousands are enlisting in the League, this army of the common good, in which none receives pay, but in which all give of their substance for the benefit of themselves, the coming generation and the nation in which we live.

The League is establishing its legal bureau, which will grow from time to time as need arises. Its first duty is the defense of The Menace against the indictments brought against it.

The first steps in this case have been to make formal motions. These have been made. As soon as they are disposed of, application will be made for authority to take depositions in Rome. The object of this application is to enable the League to send its attorneys to Rome to secure the testimony of Pope Benedict XV and his immediate advisors.

The League proposes to discover definitely and finally whether the pope is like other men, amenable to the laws of some nation or whether he is above the laws of nations and, with his creatures doing his bidding in every nation, can set all the governments of the world at naught.

For these objects, the Free Press Defense League needs the 1,000,000 members that it has called for—the 1,000,000 soldiers of the common good who have been summoned to the colors.

CHEERS FROM THOSE IN THE TRENCHES

Soldiers of the Common Good, Enlisted in Free Press Defense League, Send Words of Encouragement From the Front

After all, it is from the front that inspiration comes. Out in the trenches, along the Firing Line, where the soldiers come face to face with the foe, know its might but fight on and on and on, they are cheering for the Army of a Million Soldiers of the Common Good. Here is what one says:

"Dear Mr. Sheppard:—I am sending herewith my check. I shall watch your needs as announced and shall respond not grudgingly, I assure you. You are engaged in the fight of the twentieth century, I am sure. I have been a close student of Rome ecclesiastical and Rome political, for many years, and as a man brought up in Protestantism all my days I have had my eyes opened and have read the very best and most reliable works in existence bearing upon the history and claims of Romanism. You have a subtle foe to deal with, but as a lawyer you know your case, doubtless, fully. You have done an inestimable favor in taking up this great cause of the people's rights. I desire to see this battle fought to the finish and the rights of the press protected fully. I feel that you will see to it that the real issue is not befogged so as to sustain the artful claims that religion is being attacked and thus give countenance to the amny-pamny position of the men of the Washington Gladden type. I hope that you will give the real matter a sledge-hammer blow—the hierarchy as a political machine, damning and wickedly vicious to the welfare of the nation and its government. Do not forget that you have thousands who are with you, some of whom sense what the hand of Rome means to them personally in the boycott and the persecution they must suffer locally. Thank God there are some who do not feel compelled to surrender to the tyrant on the Tiber, and whose business interests too, do not hamper them."

I am glad I have been able to look four-square to the world in business matters and independent of the Romish politician and the cheap demagogue. Yes, Mr. Sheppard, I was trained as a lawyer, know something of the gigantic struggle you have before you, but I believe that you have started in to make a success of it. In this you have my hearty co-operation and support. I have been a pretty fair agent for THE MENACE, having sent it more than twenty-five subscriptions. It is a fearless newspaper, clean and incisive, and it has a corps of editors who are judicious, safe, and determined to expose the mammoth fraud of this self-assumed world government."

Those who have enlisted are turning themselves into recruiting agents and are bringing their friends into the ranks. Typical of the words of cheer from these is this letter written from a small town in Wisconsin:

"I am sending you a full list of patriots who have contributed to the defense fund. More are willing to contribute and if you will send me another blank, I can get it filled. If the general response is what I think it will be, you'll have one million members by the time the trial comes on."

A note of solemn devotion to duty, of fearless courage and fidel-

LAST CALL FOR LEXINGTON DAY CLUB

April nineteenth—the day that New England farmers, armed with squirrel guns withstood an English army at Lexington and Concord, marked the real birth of freedom upon American soil.

The real Declaration of Independence was syllabled in the shots that resounded from those squirrel guns. "The shot heard 'round the world'" told the earth of the birth of a new ideal of liberty.

April nineteenth—if there be such a thing as a sacred date in American history, it is this one, in which a new patriotism, without hesitation and counting not the cost, hurled itself upon a giant foe, and in the fullness of time, won freedom for a new nation.

Is there then any more fitting way to celebrate Lexington day than by a renewed pledge of fealty to the cause of liberty for which our embattled forefathers fought and died? Is there not something inspiring in the suggestion of Patriot E. W. Stahl, of Evanston, Ill., who has issued a call for his fellow patriots to join him in a new act of consecration in the name of liberty—the gift of One Day's Wages for use in the struggle to maintain the free press, free schools and freedom of religious opinion.

If you are one of the soldiers of the common good who believe that the cause to which the Free Press Defense League is devoted is worth One Day's Wages to you—the wages that you will earn on Lexington Day—and that you cannot afford to give more, join Patriot Stahl in his Lexington Day Club, and on or before April nineteenth send to the Free Press Defense League, Ft. Scott, Kas., a sum equal to one day's wages.

Mark your subscription blank "Lexington Day Club" and you can rest assured that the money will be used for a cause no less glorious than that for which your forefathers fought at Lexington and at Concord.

Patriot Stahl's letter to the League, suggesting the formation of the club, reads:

TO THE FREE PRESS DEFENSE LEAGUE, FT. SCOTT, KAN.:

April nineteenth is the anniversary of the battles of Lexington and Concord, when freemen fired the shot heard 'round the world. I will be one of three thousand lovers of liberty to give the press defense fund my wages on that day. Please announce this through patriotic papers. — E. W. STAHL, EVANSTON, ILL.

Is the preservation of the free press, of free schools and freedom of religious opinion worth one day's wages to you? If it is, celebrate Lexington Day by joining the Lexington Day Club.

Some Can Contribute Much, Others But Little, Every One Can Contribute Something and Have Part in This Great Work—The preservation of a Free Press, Free Schools and a Free Church. Send Your Contribution and Application for Membership to the Free Press Defense League, Ft. Scott, Kans., Today. Use the Blank Below:

(Cut out and mail this coupon with your contribution TODAY)

THE FREE PRESS DEFENSE LEAGUE FT. SCOTT, KANSAS

I hereby make application for membership in The Free Press Defense League and I enclose \$..... as my contribution for the purposes of the League.

I understand that in consideration of this contribution, I am to receive a receipt and membership card. Also that after the first year I am to have a voice in the management of the organization and in the election of officers.

Make all remittances to the League by P. O. or express money order, bank draft or personal check. If cash is sent, register it.

Name.....

Street or Rural Route.....

Postoffice..... State.....

(Send all contributions intended for The Free Press Defense League to that organization at Ft. Scott, Kas., J. I. Sheppard, Sec., and not to THE MENACE.)